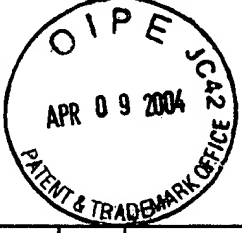


Please type a plus sign, (+) inside this box →

+

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT 		Application Number		09/391,943	
		Filing Date		September 8, 1999	
		First Named Inventor		N. OHYAMA	
		Group Art Unit		2612	
		Examiner Name		Jason T. Whipkey	
Sheet		of		Attorney Docket Number	990544/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
JTW		5,864,364		OHYAMA et al	01-26-1999	

RECEIVED
APR 13 2004
Technology Center 2600

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits*	Cite No ¹	Off c ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
JTW		JP	08-123981		TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. et al	05-17-1996		*
JTW		JP	08-221560		TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. et al	08-30-1996		*
JTW		JP	09-033347		TOYOTA MOTOR CORP. et al	02-07-1997		*
JTW		JP	10-222653		NIPPON PAINT CO. LTD.	08-21-1998		*

*English language abstract enclosed

Examiner Signature	<i>Jason T. Whipkey</i>	Date Considered	6/15/04
--------------------	-------------------------	-----------------	---------

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: April 7, 2004